

What's New in the MPDC

NOVEMBER 5, 2001

CHIEF RAMSEY PROVIDES HOUSE COMMITTEE WITH UPDATE ON MPDC EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Chief Ramsey joined Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Margret Kellems and other Administration Officials on Friday in updating a key House subcommittee on the District's emergency preparation plans. Chief Ramsey told the Government Reform Subcommittee on the District of Columbia that the MPDC has developed and implemented a three-level Emergency Response Plan for different types of situations, including terrorist attacks. The plan spells out a variety of personnel, operational and communications steps that will be taken at each level. The MPDC has been operating on its Level 1 plan since the FBI issued its first general warning October 11 about possible terrorist attacks. Level 1 means the Department has been on a heightened state of alert. Levels 2 and 3 are more extensive, and include such steps as the recall of personnel and the activation of emergency traffic plans. The Chief also praised the MPDC's actions immediately following the September 11 terrorist attacks. By immediately recalling officers and activating the Joint Operations Command Center, the Department was able to deal with conflicting information and a concerned public in a calm and effective manner. Read the Chief's complete statement at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2001/110201.shtm

CITY PROVIDES EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT ANTHRAX AND THE BIOTERRORISM THREAT

In response to continuing public concerns over anthrax and other bioterrorism threats, the DC government has assembled a variety of information that residents can use to learn more and to take reasonable precautions. The information includes Q&A documents about anthrax, as well as updates on testing of DC-area post offices by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Useful links to federal government sites – including FBI and US Postal Service information on handling suspicious mail – are also provided. In addition, the DC Department of Health has established a toll-free Anthrax Information Hotline:

The MPDC continues to remind residents about some basic rules on reporting suspicious packages. Learn more at:

www.mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

866-501-1097. The CDC also has public response hotlines, in both English (888-246-2675) and Spanish (888-246-2857). For an updated list of useful information and links, click on:

dc.gov/citizen/preparedness/info_anthrax.shtm

The District's Emergency Management Agency has developed a handy Family Preparedness Guide that can be used in preparing for a wide range of incidents – from natural disasters to terrorist attacks. View the guide (in PDF format) at:
dc.gov/citizen/preparedness/epg.shtm

PUBLIC INVITED TO MPDC AWARDS CEREMONY

Last October, 6D Master Patrol Officer Gregory Phifer was returning home after completing the midnight shift when he observed a house on fire on Fitch Place, NE. He radioed the location to dispatchers, but fearing he could not wait for Fire personnel, he kicked in the door and rescued three people – including a grandmother that Phifer carried to safety from an upstairs bedroom. The recipient of the MPDC's Medal of Honor, Medal of Valor and Lifesaving Award, MPO Phifer is one of dozens of police officers, civilian employees and community members who will be recognized during the MPDC's 2nd Annual Awards Ceremony this Thursday, November 8th. A special tribute to the agencies that responded to the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon will also be held. The event begins at 7 pm in DAR Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, NW. The public is invited to attend and show its support for the men and women of the MPDC and our partners in the community. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by calling 202-727-3721 or e-mailing to awards_mpdc@excite.com.

WATCH OUT FOR CON GAMES AND SWINDLES

As the cold weather approaches, many homeowners follow the advice of experts and get their heating and other household systems cleaned and checked. While the vast majority of contractors are honest and reputable, some individuals try to take advantage of unsuspecting homeowners, especially senior citizens. Two safety tips before you get any work done: check out the contractor ahead of time (be especially leery of people who show up at your door unsolicited) and get a written contract/estimate for any work before it is done. Here's an important tip for when your heating system is being inspected: keep an eye on the service person while he or she is working. Some disreputable contractors have been known to intentionally damage a heating system in the hopes of getting the contract to repair or replace it. Most importantly, if you have been victimized by a con or swindle, call the police. Don't be embarrassed or ashamed. Your report can help identify the con men and stop future victimizations. For additional safety tips, go to:

If your organization is interested in a presentation on preventing cons and swindles – or on any other crime prevention topic – contact the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at 727-0783.

mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/avoidswindles.shtml

UPCOMING: "ASK THE CHIEF" THIS MONDAY

Chief Ramsey will take your questions and e-mails this Monday, November 5th, at 10 am, during his regular monthly appearance on WTOP's "Ask the Chief" program. You can submit questions ahead of time, or view a Webcast of the program, through the WTOP News Website:

www.wtop.com/news/ask_ramsey.jhtml

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

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MPDC.DC.GOV